

5-23-95 Minutes

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m., May 23, 1995.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilwoman Linda Kochendarfer; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice (arrived at 7:52 p.m.); and Councilman W. D. Tharp (arrived at 7:37 p.m.).

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared the minutes of a regular meeting held on May 9, 1995, were approved as corrected; and the minutes of an adjourned meeting held May 10, 1995, were approved as distributed.

On motion by Vice Mayor Brookshier, seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously, the following item was added to the agenda:

Report on Foundation Plantings at Library - Bedford Master Gardeners Association

Mayor Shelton informed Council of the ceremonies scheduled for Memorial Day: National D-Day Memorial Foundation unveiling of the National D-Day memorial and monument plans; and community commemoration for Memorial Day honoring all service men and women.

Mayor Shelton stated that he is establishing a list of names of individuals who will be asked to serve on a Task Force to represent the Bedford Regional Library, the Bedford County Schools, the County and City of Bedford, the Bedford Bar Association, and the Community Health Foundation. The Task Force will undertake development of an information infrastructure plan for the City regarding the new library, as well as how to incorporate the fiber optic cabling that is going to occur in the City and the information delivery to the citizens. The Mayor stated that Councilwoman Flood will serve on this Task Force representing the Library Committee.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer inquired as to trash being piled up on a piece of property on West Main Street and Fourth Street. The City Manager stated it will be looked into.

Councilman Tharp arrived at 7:37 pm.

Vice Mayor Brookshier thanked the Chief of Police for reducing the number of speeding vehicles in the Pinecrest Avenue area.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following public hearing notice:

NOTICE

SYNOPSIS OF BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1995 TO

JUNE 30, 1996

CITY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council May 23, 1995, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Hall of the City Municipal Building in relation to the budget for the City of Bedford for Fiscal Year 1995-96, at which time any citizen of the City shall have the right to attend and state his or her views. Detailed copies of the budget are available for inspection during normal office hours in the office of the City Manager and the office of the Clerk of Council.

Assistant City Manager Thompson gave a summary of the proposed FY 1995-96 budget and reviewed updates that have been made since the budget was originally presented to Council.

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.

Ms. Carol McMillan, of the Bedford Master Gardeners Association, presented a landscape plan for the foundation area of the new Library.

Councilman Rice arrived at 7:52 p.m.

Discussion ensued.

Council concurred to accept the report of the Bedford Master Gardeners. The matter was referred to the staff and the Master Gardeners for further refinement and work on any features that require more detail with a report to be made to Council.

Mrs. Marjorie B. Rucker spoke to Council regarding the screening around the parking lot of the new library. Mrs. Rucker stated that the screening is inadequate and does not meet the requirements of the Bedford Land Development Regulations. Vice Mayor Brookshier stated that the screening request is still on the Library Committee agenda and will be brought to Council with some recommendations.

Mrs. Rucker stated that the lights are too bright in the library parking lot. The Mayor indicated that the light fixtures will be fitted with light shields prior to the library being occupied. Mrs. Rucker asked that the light from the new fixtures be measured and that she be told of the results.

Vice Mayor Brookshier suggested that a neighborhood meeting be held concerning any issues that the citizens in that area would like to discuss.

Mrs. Rucker asked to be kept informed of what is going to be done and when, pertaining to the petition presented on February 14. The Vice Mayor stated that Mrs. Rucker will be notified following the meeting of the Library Committee.

The City Manager stated that all the members of the Blue Ridge Power Agency are giving notice to Appalachian Power Company in order to begin contract negotiations. APCO representatives also agree that such notice is important in order to resolve some present contract issues.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council directed the City Manager to give the proper legal notice to Appalachian Power Company in order to begin the electric service agreement negotiations.

Discussion ensued regarding funds to finish the construction of the History Room at the new library. Funds in the amount of approximately \$11,000 are needed to complete the construction. Councilman Tharp indicated that pledges for donations of funds have been made in an amount between \$5,000 and \$8,000. Councilman Tharp asked that permission be given to the contractor to finish the construction of the History Room with funding to be from donations received and from the contingency.

Council concurred to authorize the contractor to complete the History Room at the new library with the understanding that the cost will not exceed \$11,000, with funding to be from donations received and from the contingency. If the contingency fund is exhausted, funds will come from the interest on the invested money.

Council scheduled a tour of the new library on June 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.